LP
F
5012
1871
S

Queen's University
Library

KINGSTON, ONTARIO

FORT GARRY.

Manitoba,

AND THE

NORTH-WEST OF THE DOMINION,

ITS RESOURCES AND ADVANTAGES

TO THE

Emigrant and Capitalist,

AS COMPARED WITH THE WESTERN STATES OF AMERICA;

ITS CLIMATE, SOIL, AGRICULTURAL AND MANUFACTURING FACILITIES;

ITS UNPARALLELED SALUBRITY, GROWTH AND PRODUCTIVENESS, IN COMPARISON WITH THE OLDER PROVINCES;

AND THE

ELEMENTS OF ITS FUTURE GREATNESS AND PROSPERITY.

AND CONTAINING

LAND POLICY,

LATEST INFORMATION, CHEAPEST AND BEST WAY TO GET TO RED RIVER, AND WHAT IS REQUIRED.

BY

THOMAS SPENCE,

Clerk of the Legislative Council of Manitoba.

TORONTO:

HUNTER, ROSE AND COMPANY, PUBLISHERS.

1871.

F5012
1871 S

Entered according to Act of the Parliament of Canada, in the year one thousand eight hundred and seventy-one, by HUNTER, ROSE & Co.. in the office of the Minister of Agriculture.

PREFACE.

In this pamphlet there is, for obvious reasons, no attempt at strictly scientific classification. Its humbler but perhaps more practical purpose will have been served if it shall help to make MANITOBA and the NORTH-WEST of the Dominion better known abroad and at home.

As a guarantee for the reliability and practical use of the information indicated by its title, it may be sufficient to state that, during the First Session of the Legislature, the copy, before being sent to the printer, was read before a "Joint Committee," of both Houses, on "Agriculture and Immigration," the members of which were nearly all agriculturists of the best standing and long experience in Manitoba, who unanimously passed the following resolution:—"Having heard read an Essay entitled 'MANITOBA and the NORTH-WEST of the Dominion, its RESOURCES and ADVANTAGES to the Immigrant and Capitalist, as compared with the Western States of America, &c., &c.,' do unanimously concur in its reliability and practical correctness of information, approving of several valuable suggestions; and this Committee consider the said Essay would prove a useful and economic medium for drawing attention to the resources of this country, and therefore recommend the same to the favourable notice of both Houses, with a view to the encouragement of its publication."

T. S.

39857

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA,
June 5th, 1871.

MANITOBA,

AND THE

NORTH-WEST OF THE DOMINION.

By the admission of Rupert's Land into the Dominion, and the establishment of Manitoba as a Province, the curtain has been raised upon a drama of colonization, to be re-enacted in a new and magnificent portion of CANADA. The *North-West*, the future destiny of which will be a great and glorious one [fortunate, therefore, will be the descendants of those who may now obtain a foothold within its gigantic borders] possesses all the true elements of future greatness and prosperity, and an unparalleled growth in the history of British America. A plain statement of facts is all that is at present required, with which to go before the world to ensure the commencement of a stream of immigration, that will soon fulfil Bulwer's grand project of a chain of loyal provinces, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and be induced greatly by the liberal policy of the Government of the Dominion.

Already Manitoba, in the first Session of its Legislature, has set the example, by the true policy of a liberal "Homestead Law," in keeping with the spirit of the age

in which we live, and is as liberal as that of any in the United States. In addition to the exemption from seizure of the debtor's ordinary furniture, tools and farm implements in use, are also "one cow, two oxen, one horse, four sheep, two pigs, and the food for the same for thirty days." A further clause says as follows:—"The land cultivated by the debtor, provided the extent of the same be not more than *one hundred and sixty acres*, in which case the surplus may be sold with privilege to first mortgagees. The house, stables, barns, fences, on the debtor's farm are," by this Act, "declared free from seizure by virtue of all writs of execution issued by any court of this Province." Thereby showing that we have no limitation as to the value of the farm or residence thus secured to the family, whatever its value *may become*, it remains the shelter, the castle, the home, of the family, to cluster round its hearthstone in the hour of gloom and disaster, as securely as they were wont to do in the sunshine of prosperity. We must remember that no general law can be framed for the protection of the unfortunate that will not sometimes be taken advantage of by others, and it may be safely asserted that such an exemption law will be found a blessing to thousands of worthy men, women and children, for every one unworthily shielded by its provisions.

It is not within the province of this Essay to enter into details of the early history of Red River Settlement, or its late troubles, suffice it to say, therefore, that the colony was planted by Lord Selkirk, in 1812, at the mouth of the Assiniboine, as an auxiliary to the Hudson

Bay Company's trade, and as a source of agricultural supply, &c., and, after the result of various exploring expeditions throughout Rupert's Land under Palliser, Hinds, Dawson and others became known, public opinion in England and Canada began to appreciate the immense value of this country; and in 1857 a Parliamentary investigation was ordered, which suddenly astonished the world at its revelations. After many delays, struggles and troubles, we at last enter upon a career of development, with peace and prosperity before us; and, possessing all the rights and privileges of a British Province, gladly extend the hand of welcome to the world, and offer a home of future independence to millions of our fellow creatures.

In the present sparsely settled state of the country the pioneers of immigration will have great advantages in being able to appropriate the best lands, and most eligible situations for wood and water; although it may be here remarked that what, in many parts, is now a treeless prairie may, in a few years, be covered with timber, as soon as civilization checks the annual scourge of prairie fires. Wherever these fires are arrested, the land is soon covered by a dense growth of timber, generally poplar.

From the tendency of population being governed primarily by the direction of the navigable waters, so will the pioneer immigrant lay the foundation of thriving towns along their great extent to the foot of the Rocky Mountains.

In comparing the advantages and resources of this

great North-West of the Dominion, with the west and north-west of the United States, we must bear in mind that the rate of area absorbed by settlement in ten years in the Western States of America was 170,955 square miles, and continually increasing; and that from the reports of explorations, made under the auspices of the United States Government, of the region between the Mississippi and the Rocky Mountains, the startling facts are revealed, "that the *western progress* of its population has nearly *reached the extreme western limit* of the areas available for settlement, and that the whole space west of the 98th parallel, embracing one half of the entire surface of the United States, is *an arid and desolate waste*, with the exception of a narrow belt of rich land along the Pacific coast."

That rich but narrow belt referred to has already been blocked out with the prosperous States of California and Oregon, with a population of over 1,200,000. This momentous fact was first announced by Professor Henry, of the Smithsonian Institute, from whom we quote, "The whole space to the west, between the 98th meridian and the Rocky Mountains, is a barren waste, over which the eye may roam to the extent of the visible horizon, with scarcely an object to break the monotony. The country may also be considered, in comparison with other portions of the United States, a wilderness, unfitted for the use of the husbandman, although, in some of the mountain valleys, as at Salt Lake, by means of irrigation, a precarious supply of food may be obtained."

It is not necessary to quote the detailed description of

this American Sahara, the concluding words of Professor Henry are more to our purpose. He says, "we have stated that the entire region, west of the 98th degree of west longitude, with the exception of a small portion of western Texas, and the main border along the Pacific, is a country of comparatively little value to the agriculturist; and perhaps it will astonish the reader if we direct his attention to the fact that this line, that passes southward from Lake Winnipeg to the Gulf of Mexico, will divide the *whole surface* of *the United States into two nearly equal parts.* This statement, when fully appreciated, will serve to dissipate some of the dreams, which have been considered realities *as to the destiny* of the western part of the North American continent. Truth, however, transcends even the laudable feelings of pride and country, and in order properly to direct the policy of this great confederacy" (the United States), "it is necessary to be well acquainted with the theatre in which its future history is to be re-enacted."

Now, looking upon that picture and on this, let us draw the comparison. Upon the northern edge of that great Sahara, we have the valleys of the Red River and Saskatchewan, carrying their rich and grassy undulations to the gorges of the Rocky Mountains; forming an isolated belt of verdure across the western half of the British American continent, an isthmus of fertile and habitable lands between the Arctic wastes, which extend to the frozen ocean on the north, and the vast deserts between the Mississippi River and Pacific coast. Kansas, Eastern Nebraska, Dakotah and Minnesota, are rapidly

filling up, and all that remains are less that 90,000 square miles ; or, at the present rate of demand of land absorbed by immigration, about five years to the turning point in American history. It is not difficult to foresee the result, viz., that the entire expansive movement of population on the American continent, will be concentrated in the direction of our fertile valleys in the basin of Lake Winnipeg. In the face of these serious facts, not an hour's delay should take place in the building of a British interoceanic railway, which can be fed by an industrious population, from one extremity to the other ; and everyone possessing a true loyal spirit, should lend a helping hand to the Government in promoting the rapid advancement of this great enterprise, one so important to British interests in all parts of the world. People who have misgivings about the practicability of building the Canada Pacific Railway on the basis of land grants, may be able to gather some encouragement from the following facts :—When the Illinois Central Railroad was being built, a grant of land was made in its favour, to the extent of 2,595,000 acres. Sales of this land, to the first of January, 1869, amounted to $23,793,255, and over half a million acres then remained unsold, which, it is said, was worth $10 per acre. It is estimated that when the whole of this land is sold, it will yield $30,000,000, or over $11 per acre. Until the Illinois Central was built, the Western States were more difficult of access than Manitoba is to-day ; yet there are few States better supplied with railroad and other facilities than these are now. The Kansas Pacific had a large land grant, all of

which it sold at an average price of $3 25 per acre. A good portion of this land was comprised within the limits of what was known as the "Great American Desert."

The Union Pacific Railway also obtained from the Government a grant of large tracts of land, from which it has realized an average of $4 46 per acre. The country, through which the Canadian Pacific is likely to run, is known to be, in most respects, superior to that through which the three American Railways named are running to-day, and there can be no doubt that, as emigration to Manitoba increases, and the country becomes opened up, the land along the line of the Canadian Pacific Railway will be worth fully as much as it was along the lines of the Illinois Central, the Kansas Pacific, or the Union Pacific. The elements, for appraising the market value of the Canadian Pacific land grant, sufficiently exist to make it absolutely certain that it can be sold for a sum much greater than the cost of constructing and equipping the road. The policy of the company should be, however, at first to sell its lands at such moderate prices as to render their speedy absorption and settlement certain. For the information of those likely to become settlers along its line, we may here state, that the ignorant objections heretofore urged to a Canadian Pacific route, on the score of climate, are forever set at rest by the ascertained facts of temperature; and the groundless notion that snow storms and drifts in winter would prove an obstacle is disposed of. The facts are that, from the Red River to the Rocky Mountains, the total fall of snow

during the winter, averages 33 inches, *less snow than in Quebec and Ontario,* where snow is no obstacle to railroads. The snow storms along the plains of the Saskatchewan are only one-fifth of what they are in the railroad State of Massachusetts. As we proceed westward, the climate is more humid, and mild as that of England—moisture falling usually in the form of rain. This, therefore, is clearly shown to be the only route capable of continuous and profitable settlement, nearly along its whole line, and possessing the necessary elements of sustentation in local traffic, independent of its enormous through traffic.

This route is indicated as the natural pathway of commerce, by the vast and inexhaustible coal beds of the Saskatchewan, speaking of which Sir William Armstrong, some few years ago, raised the question, in the old country, of the possibility of the coal mines of England becoming, after a time, exhausted. The question was widely discussed at the time, and all became thoroughly convinced of what paramount importance to a country's prosperity was the coal fields. From geological reports, and engineers' surveys, it appears that the Saskatchewan district possesses one of the largest coal fields in the world. Between the 59th parallel and the North Sea, it has been calculated that there cannot be much less than 500,000 square miles that are underlied by true coal. The average breadth of this belt is about 200 miles. In addition to the coal, this district contains rich deposits of iron ore, and on both slopes of the Rocky Mountains,

immense gold deposits, the development of which is yet in its infancy.

Surely, with those riches, there is a great future in store for the North-West, to be developed by the completion of the Canadian Pacific Railway. The wonderful provision of coal in our North-West makes its possession of *immense* importance to the Dominion of Canada, as the scarcity of coal is one of its most serious wants at present, and affects every branch of manufactures and industry, as well as the private arrangements of the people. With this region properly developed, not only may the Dominion draw supplies from her own resources, but also our neighbours across the line, by branch line from the Northern Pacific, now in course of rapid construction, and which will, at some western points, almost touch the boundary line. The measure of working the coal fields of the North-West is of such immediate importance to the country, that every inducement should be held out to private companies to develope these rich fields, which are more important to the prosperity and development of the Dominion, than the possession of a mine of diamonds. In advance of the completion of that grand enterprise, a Pacific Railway, we possess the magnificent extent of collateral water line, almost directly on the path of the future railway, and occupying three-fourths of the entire distance across the continent. The introduction of steam navigation, throughout this extensive water line, will revolutionize the whole traditional system of traffic with the Indians. It has cost the Hudson Bay Company, annually, about $500,000 for the collection and tranship-

ment of their furs. This will not appear extraordinary when it is known that the cost, under the present system of transportation, of maintaining a single bateau for the season of navigation, including the wages and provisions of men, is from $1,500 to $2,500. One of these boats carries five tons. To make the upward voyage with loaded boats, from Red River to Fort Edmonton, on the North Saskatchewan, a distance of 1,062 miles, requires a period of two months. A steamboat which would carry, say 100 tons, would make the trip in one week at the farthest, at a cost not greater than that required to support a bateau. To sum up this statement, to carry five tons 1000 miles in a bateau, and return, consumes the season, at a cost of, say $25,000, or $500 per ton. To carry 100 tons in a steamboat, and return, might consume a month, at a cost of, say $1000, or $10 per ton. Transportation by steamboat would therefore cost one-fiftieth of the expense by the present modes. As already remarked, the tendencies of settlement will be governed mainly by the direction of the navigable streams, which offer a wide field of enterprise, and investment for capital.

Those who should now Emigrate.

Immigrants most likely to succeed in the present unadvanced state of the country, would be farmers and stock-raisers, with a limited number of mechanics, not entirely dependant on constant employment at their trade, or afraid of pioneer life, but desirous of securing a home of future independence ; agriculturists or small capitalists, as pioneers, are the more eligible who seek to improve

their condition by their experience, and desire larger and quicker returns for labour bestowed, and capital invested. The present rate of wages are, on an average, considerably higher than in the eastern provinces, and provisions about 50 per cent. higher; and sometimes beef and pork are difficult to be had at any price, occasioned by the numerous arrivals, and the supply being unequal to the demand. Immigrants should therefore bring all the live stock possible with them, $80 to $90 being asked at present for a good working ox, $50 for a milk cow, and from $100 to $125 for the common Indian breed of horses.

Agricultural Implements

of all kinds should also be brought by the immigrant, as they are yet both scarce and dear. The most indispensable would be a good steel plough for breaking land, harrow, &c., and as many of the necessaries required by an emigrant, as can be conveniently carried. The main reason of the present scarcity of cattle is, that the old settlers have not hitherto devoted much attention to stock raising on a large scale, or much beyond the supply of their own wants.

New Land

should never be broken after July, and that broken in June, only requires re-ploughing before the seed is put in for a crop the next season, so that the immigrant should lose no time in arriving as early as possible, to give him time to look up a suitable location, break some land, secure wild hay, and make other provision for com-

fort in winter. Potatoes may be planted up to the early part of June, and do well in newly broken land, by which a crop may be secured for immediate use. The great advantage to the immigrant in having a good yoke of oxen is, that they will work better in the breaking plough, and grow fat on the green grass that they eat at night, whereas the horses will be poor after a long journey, and being likely accustomed to a liberal supply of oats, will not do so well at first on grass alone.

For Fencing,

poplar will generally be found in small groves on the prairie, or on the banks of streams, and, if the bark is peeled off, makes a good and lasting fence, small ash or oak being used for the pickets, when it can be conveniently found. A good tent is indispensable for the comfort of the immigrant and his family, both for the journey and for summer accommodation, till a house is built. For the balance, tact, energy and enterprise, with a well-settled purpose, will be a safe passport to early independence, growing in wealth with the development of the country. As settlements become filled, there will, of course, be a more ample field for many to do in the North-West, as thousands now do in the older Provinces, namely, start with nothing, and by working out for wages, or hiring farms on shares, soon secure for themselves homes of comfort.

No doubt, before next season, an experienced immigration agent will be appointed in the Province, to whom immigrants will be able to apply for disinterested infor-

mation of local detail, and by whom they will be guided in their movements and location in their adopted country.

Climate and Seasons.

The natural division of the seasons in the valley of Lake Winnipeg is as follows :—

Spring.—April and May :

Summer.—June, July, August, and part of September :

Autumn.—Part of September and October :

Winter.—November, December, January, February and March :

And is strikingly represented by the early and rapid advancement of temperature in May. It is the excessive cold of the long winter season, embracing five months of the year in this latitude, which reduces the annual mean, being 34° 38′, while that of Montreal is 42° 03′; but Blodgett claims that the whole Saskatchewan valley has a climate very nearly as mild, in its *annual average*, as that of Winsconsin, Northern New York and Ontario, which would give it a winter mean of 15 degrees. The mean for the three months, December, January and February, at Fort Garry is 6° 85′, at Montreal 16° 83′. In April and May the mean temperature rises to 39° 83. and 58° 46′, being about equal to Toronto. The winter climate grows rapidly milder in the same parallel westward, even where there is an increase of elevation, and, in the Saskatchewan valley, almost represents the climate of Ontario, the mean depth of snow being about one-third less.

The buffaloes have wintered in myriads on the nutritious

grasses of its prairies, up to as high a latitude as Lake Athabasca ; and the half-breeds and Indians camp out in the open plains during the whole of winter, with no shelter but a buffalo skin tent and robes, and horses of the settlers run at large and grow fat on the grasses which they pick up in the woods and bottoms.

The following table will serve for comparison between the summer temperatures of the Red River, with the agricultural climates south of us :—

	JUNE.	JULY.	AUGUST.	SUMMER MEAN.
Red River	69·10	71·16	63·03	67·76
Chicago	62·7	70·08	68·05	67·03
Iowa	66·4	70·05	68·09	68·06
Wisconsin	61·7	68·06	65·07	65·03
New York	64·2	68·05	66·07	66·05
Ontario	59·93	67·95	64	63·98

It will thus be seen that the summer climate is warmer than that of Northern Illinois, Western Wisconsin, Northern New York, or Ontario. The fall plunges into winter almost as rapidly as the spring emerges from it. In relation to agriculture, the intensity of winter cold is of comparatively little moment, and its effects upon the physical comfort is mitigated by a clear dry atmosphere, such as makes the winters of our Eastern Provinces the season of animal and social enjoyment.

Prominent among the questions proposed by the emigrant, seeking a new home in a new country, are those concerning the climate, its temperature, adaptation to the culture of the grand staples of food, and its healthfulness.

The climate of our North-West has long been the subject of unjust disparagement. "It is too far north," "the winters are intolerable," &c., &c. To the native settler the seasons follow each other in pleasing succession. As the sun approaches its northern altitude, winter relaxes its grasp, streams and lakes are unbound, prairie flowers spring up, as if by the touch of some magic wand, and gradually spring is merged into the bright beautiful June, with its long warm days, and short, but cool and refreshing, nights. The harvest months follow in rapid succession, till the golden Indian summer of early November, foretells the approach of cold and snow; and again winter, with its short days of clear bright sky and bracing air, and its long nights of cloudless beauty, complete the circle.

The average fall of snow is about six inches per month. This snow falls in small quantities, at different times, and is rarely blown into drifts so as to impede travelling. With the new year commences the extreme cold of our winter, when, for a few days, the mercury ranges from 15 to 35 degrees below zero, falling sometimes even below that. Yet the severity of these days is much softened by the brilliancy of the sun, and the stillness of the air. Thus, while in lower latitudes, they are being drenched by the cold rain storms, or buried beneath huge drifts of wintry snow, Manitoba enjoys a dry atmosphere, with bright cloudless days, and serene starlight nights; and when the moon turns her full orbed face towards the earth, the night scene of Manitoba is one of peerless grandeur.

Rains.

The Great American Desert derives its barrenness from the lack of rain. The valley of Lake Winnipeg, on the other hand, is abundantly supplied with moisture during the summer months, having an excess of humidity, compared with Toronto, by about 14 to 17 inches of rain. No feature in the meteorology of Manitoba and the North-West Territory is likely to excite so much interest to agriculturists as the extraordinary fall of rain during the agricultural months, while we have less snow by about 33 inches on the total fall of winter.

Salubrity of Climate.

Of paramount importance to the emigrant is the healthfulness of the locality which is to be the scene of his future labours, and the home for himself and family. What to him are fair fields, flowering meadows, buried in the luxuriant growth of fertile soils and tropical suns, if they generate fever-producing miasm and vapour ?—what are soft and perfumed breezes, if they waft the seeds of pestilence and death ?—what are bountiful harvests of golden grain, rich and mellow fruits, and all the wealth the earth can yield, if disease must annually visit his dwelling, and death take away, one by one, the loved and the young ? It is well known that some of the fairest portions of the Western States are so fruittul of the causes of disease, as almost to preclude settlement. And thousands have left their comparatviely healthy Canadian and European homes, to find untimely graves

in the prairie soil of Indiana, Illinois, Iowa and Missouri. And even in the sections of these States, deemed most healthy, the climate has an enervating effect upon those accustomed to the bracing air of Northern Europe, and our Eastern Provinces.

The dryness of the air, the character of the soil, which retains no stagnant pools to send forth poisonous exhalations, and the almost total absence of fog or mist; the brilliancy of its sunlight, the pleasing succession of its seasons, all conspire to make Manitoba a climate of unrivalled salubrity, and to make this the home of a joyous, healthy, prosperous people, strong in physical, intellectual and moral capabilities. Therefore, the assertion that the climate of our North-West is one of the healthiest in the world may be broadly and confidently made, sustained by the experience of its inhabitants. Fevers and consumption are almost unknown, and diseases of an epidemical character never have been known to prevail. Diseases common to infancy and childhood, partake of a very mild character, and seldom prove fatal.

The Social Standing,

at present, of the agricultural and industrious classes in Manitoba, may be estimated by the great proportion of excellent schools and churches, the number of places of worship being as follows:—Episcopalian, nine; Roman Catholic, seven; Presbyterian, three; Methodist, two. This is exclusive of the Roman Catholic Cathedral of St. Boniface, and Church of England Cathedral of St. John's

The Soil, and its Agricultural Capacity.

Several authorities flatteringly speak of Red River and the Winnipeg Basin as "among one of the finest wheat countries in the world." The soil is an alluvial, black, argillaceous mould, rich in organic deposit, and resting, for a depth of from two to four feet, on a tenacious clay soil. The measures of heat are ample for the development of corn, considerably improving westward; some varieties thrive well in Manitoba, but it is not claimed as a profitable staple. As yet it has been cultivated chiefly in small garden patches, for the green ears, as the cool nights of August prevent it ripening, except in the driest soils; but in the valley of the St. Joseph mountain, sixty miles south-west of Fort Garry, it arrives at great perfection. Some varieties of Canadian corn, requiring a growing period of not more than seventy days, would, however, form a sure crop in Manitoba. According to Blodgett, Indian corn is restricted as a profitable staple, to the middle regions of the west, between parallels 42° and 43°. Wheat is the leading staple of the upper belt of the temperate zone. Blodgett (an American authority) states, "that the basin of the Winnipeg is the seat of the greatest average wheat product on this continent, and probably in *the world*." The limestone sub-strata of this region, with its rich deep calcareous loam, and retentive clay subsoil, is always associated with a rich wheat development, while its hot and humid summers fulfil all the climatological conditions of a first rate wheat country. Some fields on the Red River have been

known to produce twenty successive crops of wheat without fallow or manure, and the yield has frequently reached as high as 50 to 60 bushels to the acre. The average crop is set down at forty bushels to the acre, which is double that of Minnesota, acknowledged to be the richest wheat-growing State of America.

A comparison of the yield of wheat for past years at Red River, with the best districts of the United States, will shew its superiority over them—viz:

Red River, Spring Wheat produces				40	Bush.	per acre.
Minnesota,	"	"	"	20	"	"
Wisconsin,	"	"	"	14	"	"
Pennsylvania,		"	"	15	"	"
Massachusetts,		"	"	16	"	"

Winter wheat has not been tried, except in one or two instances, the result being unfavourable to its reputation as a reliable crop; and an opinion is generally prevalent, that it cannot be grown successfully, but this opinion is not warranted by facts. The success of winter wheat depends peculiarly in having a moderate and sure covering of light snow, not condensed by thaws, and packed close by warm winds. Such a snowy covering, requires—firstly, a moderately fall of snow; and, secondly, a low uniform range of temperature, free from winter rains and prolonged thaws, sufficient to dissipate the snowy covering. These are, in fact, the decided characteristics of our winters. The winter precipitation in snow at Manitoba, is about 25 inches. It is remarkable also, that light falls generally co-incide with quite low temperatures. The

short noon-day heats, which often carry the thermometer, for an hour or two, above freezing point in winter, are not sufficient to create a thaw, and even a whole day, but slightly above freezing, will not seriously affect the snow

In the foregoing comparison with the yield of wheat in the best districts of the United States, there is certainly food for honest pride in the agricultural capacity of Manitoba.

Wheat growing has been termed the "back-bone of agriculture." When the vital importance of maintaining and increasing the production of a grain so essential to civilized man is considered, it cannot be assigned a less conspicuous place in agricultural anatomy. Wheat is pre-eminently the food of civilized nations; and, perhaps there can be no surer measure of their civilization, than the culture and consumption of that cereal. History affirms its agency in shaping the power and character of nations. They have grown sturdy and progressive in the ratio of wheat consumption by all classes. Scientific analysis confirms the indications of history. Anatomy and chemistry, show that food to be best which gives toughness to muscular fibre, and tone to the brain; that nutriment to excel which best rescues the flagging spirits when the energies lie prostrate, without maddening stimulents.

That wheat fulfils all these conditions, is not only attested by the character and fate of nations, but it is susceptible of scientific demonstration. The nice adjustment of its vital properties, supports brain, and blood and muscle, in just the proportion requisite for the highest type of man-

hood. Refinement, fortitude and enterprise, most distinguish those nations which most consume wheat. Beef-eating and wheat-consuming races, at once dominate and elevate the rice and pork consumers, with whom they come in contact. England, who has long been the conceded mistress of the seas, and whose dependencies well-nigh encircle the globe, has so stimulated and enlarged her capacity for wheat growing, that her annual average is 28 bushels per acre. But her consumption so far outruns her production, that she lays the world under contribution for her supplies of bread. Russia, who not only feeds her own vast population, but exports largely to hungry communities abroad, is advancing to an exalted place among nations. But a more practical as well as serious aspect of the subject, pertains to those social problems connected with supplies of bread. The grave significance of the question involved is not susceptible of concealment, when the fact is considered that, while the consumption of wheat, as the choice food of the human race, is rapidly extending, the capacity of wheat-growing regions for its production is rapidly diminishing. We are told that in New England, the entire wheat product of a year is barely sufficient to feed her own people only three weeks! and New York for six months. In the ten years ending in 1860, the wheat crop of only four States, decreased 6,500,000 bushels. In the light of these facts, it is not difficult to foresee that the North-West of the Dominion must yet assume a proud pre-eminence in wheat growing.

Oats, Barley, Rye, Potatoes, &c.

The whole group of subordinate cereals follow wheat, and are less restricted in their range, growing five degeees beyond wheat in the Mackenzie river valley to the arctic circle. Barley is a favorite alternate of wheat in Manitoba, and yields enormous returns—with a weight per bushel of from 50 to 55 pounds. Oats also thrive well. Potatoes—the well known principle established by climatologists, that "cultivated plants yield their greatest and best products near the northernmost limits of their growth," applies with peculiar force to the production of potatoes with us. The mealy quality, the snowy whiteness, the fiarinaceous properties, and the exquisite flavour which distinguish the best article, reach perfection only in high latitudes. The potatoes grown in Manitoba, are well known to be unsurpassed in all the qualities named, while their prolific yield is not less remarkable. Turnips, parsnips, carrots, beets, and nearly all bulbous plants do equally as well as the potatoes.

The Salad Plants.

Cabbage, lettuce, celery, spinach, &c., are not only more tender with us than in warm climates, where the relaxing sun lays open their very buds, and renders their leaves thin and tough, but are more nutritious, because their growth is slow, and their juices well digested. The cabbage attains enormous size, as also the cauliflower, pumpkins, and cucumbers, although they come in rather late, instead of throwing too much of their growth into the

vine, as they do south, fully mature, and grow very fine and large.

Fruits.

The culture of fruit, especially the apple, has been entirely neglected heretofore in Red River; in fact, it has never been attempted by the settlers, probably on account of there generally being such an abundance of wild fruits, or the difficulty of procuring cuttings. For this, and other reasons, an erroneous impression has prevailed that we could not raise fruit or apple orchards; an extraordinary inference, when we consider that many forms of wild fruit are indigenous to the country, abounding in the woodlands, and unsurpassed in flavour, size, and productiveness—the principal of which are strawberries, currants (red and black), raspberries, plums, cherries, blue berries, whortleberries, saskatoon, and marsh and high-bush cranberries; therefore immigrants are not likely to suffer from the want of fruit. In Minnesota, the wild plum improves so much by being transplanted and cultivated, as to equal any of the garden varieties. The high-bush cranberry also improves by transplanting, and makes a beautiful ornament to the grounds about the prairie farmer's house.

The celebrated and delicious apple peculiar to the neighbourhood of Montreal, known as the "*Fameuse*," will no doubt be successfully raised in Manitoba; although we are nearly five degrees further north than Montreal, yet we are twenty-six degrees further west. At the suggestion of the writer, some plants have lately been imported from Montreal, and are doing well; as also a variety

from nurseries in Minnesota. The "*Fameuse*" is a rich and beautiful apple, peculiar to the climate and soil of the island of Montreal, a rich loam with a heavy clay subsoil, which retains the rooting, and prevents the growth of the tree pushing ahead too rapidly for the severe frosts of that latitude. It should be borne in mind, that it is not the severity of the winter that kills the young apple tree, but the *alternate thawing and freezing* of the south side of the tree in the spring, which can be avoided by mulching and protecting the stem of the tree when young by a wrapping of straw; with these precautions, and by procuring plants from a suitable climate, or planting the seeds, and thus acclimatising, there is no reason why every farm may not have its orchard in Manitoba, as in other parts of the Dominion.

Flax and Hemp.

Several years ago, at the instance, it is stated, of the late Sir George Simpson, Governor of the Hudson Bay Company, flax and hemp were cultivated to a considerable extent by the settlers in Red River. The product was of an excellent quality, and gave every promise of furnishing a very valuable commodity for home manufacture and for exportation. The cultivation of these important crops was stimulated for a few years, by premiums given by the Hudson Bay Company, then administering the government of Assiniboia; but, when the premiums were withdrawn, the cultivation soon ceased; the universal complaint at that time, was the want of a market, or of machinery to work up the raw material, and this led them to discontinue

this very important and profitable branch of industry. At the nunnery of St. Boniface, the industrious Sisters of Charity still continue its cultivation, and work up the raw material on a scale sufficient to meet their own wants.

It is well known that flax and hemp come only to perfection in a cool country; their bark in southern climates is harsh and brittle, because the plant is forced into maturity so rapidly, that the lint does not acquire either consistency or tenacity. With immigration and enterprise, no doubt our North-West will prove equal for flax and hemp growth to Northern Europe.

Bees

would also, no doubt, thrive well in the North-West, as they require a clear dry atmosphere, and a rich harvest of flowers; if the air is damp, or the weather cloudy, they will not work so well. Another reason why they work less in a warm climate is, that the honey gathered remains too fluid for sealing a longer time, and, if gathered faster than it thickens, it sours and spoils. Our clear bright skies, dry air, and rich flora, are well adapted to the bee culture, and since the process of burying bees during the winter has been introduced successfully in Minnesota, and generally adopted in the North-western States, the length and coldness of our winter ceases to be an obstacle. In fact, experience in Minnesota proves that bees succeed better there, consume less honey during the winter, and the colony comes out much stronger than in warmer climates.

Stock and Wool Growing.

The experience of many years shows that no physical impediment, arising from climate or soil, exists to prevent the prairies of our North-West becoming one of the best grazing countries in the world, and with the introduction of immigration, in a few years, the beautiful prairies of Red River, the Assinniboine, and Saskatchewan, will be enlivened with numerous flocks and herds, and the cattle trade already springing into importance, will rapidly increase, or without much difficulty, be diverted into a southern channel. For raising cattle and horses, Manitoba is equal to the State of Illinois, and for sheep-raising, it is far superior. The quality of the beef and mutton raised upon our northern grasses, has been pronounced of superior excellence. Among the peculiar advantages of Manitoba, for stock-raising and wool-growing, the most prominent are—1st. The richness and luxuriance of the native grasses. The grass is mainly cut on the swamps and meadows, which chequer the prairies, or fringe the streams and lakes. 2nd. The great extent of unoccupied land, affording for many years to come, a wide range of free pasturage. 3rd. The remarkable dryness and healthfulness of the winter. The cold dry air sharpens the appetite, and promotes a rapid secretion of fat, and a vigorous muscular development. The wool grows finer and heavier, and mutton, beef and pork sweeter and more juicy. It is nearly forty years since the introduction of sheep into Red River, and no case of any disease attacking them, has ever been seen or heard of. Well fed ewes

produce fleeces from 2 to 3½ pounds. Wethers produce fleeces from 6 to 8 pounds, the wool being of a good quality.

According to established laws of nature, cold climates require a larger quantity and finer quality of wool or fur, than warmer ones; hence the fur and wool bearing animals are found in perfection only in northern regions. The thick coating of the sheep, especially identifies it with a cold country,—the excessive heat to which their wool subjects them in a warm climate, as in Australia, generates disease. In Manitoba, they are not subject to the rot and other diseases so disastrous to sheep in warm and moist climates. Beyond all question, wool would be the best crop to raise for some time to come for exportation, as the freight on two hundred dollars worth of wool, will not be more than on five dollars worth of wheat.

Frosts and adaptation of Climate to Agriculture.

The liability to disastrous frosts in the season of growth, and which so intimately concerns the interests of husbandry, is not any worse in Manitoba, than in many parts of Ontario. At the former place, the Spring of 1869, was an exceptional late one, and in May, several light frosts were experienced, which did no serious damage to the crops; in fact the injury was scarcely noticeable, which may be accounted for from the following reasons:— 1. The dryness of the atmosphere (which is a peculiarity of this region), allows a much lower range of temperature without injury to vegetation, than in moister climates, and in addition to the heat, gives greater vigour to

the plants, they grow rapibly but with firm texture, and are consequently able to resist much cold. On account of their excessive vitality, the same as a person who has dined heartily on rich food, is better able to bear the cold of winter.

2. The sudden change of temperature, which is often the case in this region,—one extreme following another in rapid succession, is less deleterious to vigorous plants, than a gradual lowering of temperature. The earth and plants still retain the heat previously absorbed, and are thus enabled to bear an atmosphere at 20° much better than at 35°, after their latent heat has been given off. The soil of the prairie is in general dry, and is rapidly warmed by the rays of the sun in Spring.

3. The dryness of the air, is accounted for from the fact, that the moisture conveyed in the air, has a tendency to soften the delicate covering of the plants, and thus render them more sensitive to cold.

4. The heat retaining character of the soil. For these and several other reasons that might be mentioned, the climate of Manitoba is less subject to killing frosts, than might at first be supposed, on account of its high latitude.

The following statement, compiled from a Meteorological register, kept by the Hon. Mr. Gunn, M. L. C., will be found interesting. We extract the six agricultural months of 1860.

St. Andrew's Parish, Manitoba.

APRIL.—The warmest day was the 28th. Ther. at 7 a. m. 36°, at 2 p. m. 72°, at 9 p. m. 48°—average 52°. The

coldest day was the 1st. Ther. at 7 a. m. 15°, at 2 p. m. 34°, at 9 p. m. 21°—average 23 °3. On the 8th, the Red River ice breaking up; commenced sowing wheat on the 25th. Eight inches of rain fell during the month.

MAY.—The 13th was the warmest day. Ther. at 7 a. m. 69°, at 2 p. m. 84°, at 9 p. m. 72°, at 2 p. m. 40°, at 9 p. m. 44°—average 39°. Finished sowing wheat on the 5th. One inch of rain fell on the 25th.

JUNE.—The warmest day was the 1st. Ther. at 7 a. m. 65°, at 2 p. m. 75°, at 9 p. m. 67°,—average 69°. The coldest day was the 6th. Ther. at 7 a. m. 43°, at 2 p. m. 49°,at 9 p. m. 42°,—average 44° ⅔. Nine inches of rain fell during the month. On the 20th, strawberries ripe and beautiful.

JULY.—The warmest day was the 13th. Ther. at 7 a. m. 72°, at 2 p. m. 82°, at 9 p. m. 85°,—average 79° ⅔. The 22nd was the coldest day. Ther. at 7 a. m. 60°, at 2 p. m. 61°, at 9 p. m. 49°,—average 56° ⅔. On the 8th, two inches of rain fell, accompanied by strong wind which lodged many fields of wheat. Five inches of rain fell during the month.

AUGUST.—The 6th was the warmest day. At 7 p. m. 73°, at 2 p. m. 86°,—average 79°. The 31st was the coldest day. Ther. at 7 a. m. 46°, at 2 p. m. 60°, at 9 p. m. 40°—average 48° ⅔. Four inches of rain fell during the month. On the 24th, commenced reaping wheat.

SEPTEMBER.—The 17th was the warmest day. Ther. at 7 a. m. 57°, at 2 p. m. 75°,—average 66°. The 5th was the coldest day. Ther. at 7 a. m. 45°, at 9 p. m. 41°,—average 43°. Slight frost on the 2nd. Five and a half

inches of rain fell. Finished shearing wheat on the 15th.

Prof. Hind, in his report, remarks—"It cannot fail to be noticed that the general absence of late spring and early autumn frosts, with an abundant fall of rain, during the agricultural months, are its distinguishing features in relation to husbandry. The melon growing in open air, and arriving at perfect maturity in August and September; Indian corn succeeding admirably, when due precaution are used to ensure ripening before the middle of September, are strong proofs of the almost uniform absence of summer frosts."

It may not be out of place here to refer to the amount of sunlight received during our growing seasons—viz: Whilst at New Orleans, in July, they have fourteen hours sunlight; we, in Manitoba, have sixteen hours, with much longer twilight than they, consequently our vegetation grows more rapidly than theirs, and matures much sooner. This is a beautiful law of compensation—as what we lack in heat, is made up in sunlight during our summers. Some persons in their zeal for our climate, have contended that sudden changes are rare, and of no great violence. This is a mistake. Changes are sudden, violent, and not very rare. We are about half way between the equator and the north pole, and subject to either extremes. This, instead of being a disadvantage, is rather in our favour—it gives variety, a thing desirable at times; then again, these changes are, for the reasons already given, seldom pernicious. Plants and animals are armed with the proper implements for resistance. I would not infer

that we are subject to hurricanes, or other violent commotions of the atmosphere, any more, or as much as other places. But we have a touch at times of both extremes, a vibratory movement of the climates of the torrid and frigid zones alternately. Rains, hail and snow, alternating with the soft and sometimes sultry breezes of the south. There is a great variety of climate at Manitoba. Yet there is no place south of us where crops are surer (excepting the dreaded scourge of the grasshopper), or where the quality of vegetables is better. With the progress of the year, the supply of heat and moisture slowly declines, until the autumn harvest is closed. The autumnal equinox being passed, and the season of vegetable growth ended, suddenly the fall of rain is arrested. "Indian summer" is ushered in, and then follows the loveliest month of all the year; the weather warm, the atmosphere hazy and calm, and every object appearing to wear a tranquil and drowsy aspect. A few days more, and the sleeping earth lies quiet and serene. From the house-tops, the white smoke descends in airy, inverted cones, whose bases dissolve away in the steel blue sky and the sun rises bright and glorious, suffusing the wide landscape with an ephemeral but ineffable beauty. Many of the prevailing impressions, concerning the winter of Manitoba, among those who have never experienced them, are founded in gross error. Notwithstanding the marvellous accounts of intense cold and biting winds, and snows of untold depth, which have been disseminated in years gone by, and have gained a great degree of credence, the winter of Manitoba is the most healthful and invig-

orating of the seasons, and is to many, the great charm of the year.

Government.

Manitoba has a form of government similar to that of the other Provinces of the Dominion. The Legislature consists of a Legislative Council, composed of seven members; and a Legislative Assembly of twenty-four members.

The Executive consists of the Lieutenant Governor, a Secretary of State, Provincial Treasurer, Minister of Public Works, President of the Council, and Attorney General. The Judicial power is vested in a Supreme Court, District Court, and Justices of the Peace.

Law of Descent.

When a person in this Province dies, possessing lands, &c., which have not been otherwise lawfully devised, by an Act passed in the first session of the First Legislature, his property descends, subject to his debts—1st, in equal shares to his children and to the lawful issue of any deceased child. If without children, to his widow during her life, and after her decease, to his father, and directly to his father when no child or widow is left. 3rd. If no child or father be left, then to his widow during her natural life; and after her decease, in equal shares, to his brothers and sisters; and so on to more distant relatives—the law regulating the descent of real property in a regular and equitable manner.

Public Lands.

The whole area of the Province by system of survey

above ordered, exclusive of the roads, the latter being in all cases left out of the calculation, is.....9,008,640 acres.

Deduct .....*1—287,288—

2—420,392— 707,680

Leaving available arear of ..... 8,300,960 acres.

Equal to 360 Townships, each containing 23,040 acres, and of which it will require 60 to give 1,400,000 acres.

System of Survey.

1. The system shall be rectangular.

2. The townships shall consist of 36 sections, of one mile square each, and road allowances, in all cases one chain in width, shall be set out and allowed between all townships and sections. Sections shall be numbered thus :—

N

	31	32	33	34	35	36
	30	29	28	27	26	25
W	19	20	21	22	23	24 E
	18	17	16	15	14	13
	7	8	9	10	11	12
	6	5	4	3	2	1

S

3. The international boundary shall form the base for townships 1 and 2.

4. The east and west lines between townships 4 and 5, 8 and 9, 12 and 13, and 16 and 17, shall be base lines or standard parallels in the system.

The meridian line run in the autumn of 1869 for some 90 miles north from the international boundary, and known as the "Winnipeg Meridian," shall be adopted and continued as the meridian from which the ranges of townships shall number, east and west, in the Province.

6. The "jog," resulting from convergence of meridians, shall be allowed and set out on the following lines, that is to say :—

For Townships	on line between Townships.
1, 2, 3 and 4	2 and 3
5, 6, 7 " 8	6 " 7
9, 10, 11 " 12	10 " 11
13, 14, 15 " 16	14 " 15

7. In the survey of any and every township, the deficiency or surplus, as the case may be, resulting from convergence of meridians, shall be set out and allowed in the quarter sections on the west boundary—the area of which shall, in the survey, be returned accordingly at their actual contents.

Settlement of Crown Lands.

The provisions, hereinafter contained, shall only apply to lands which shall have been surveyed.

Unappropriated public lands shall, until further directions, be open for sale at the rate of one dollar an acre.

Payments for lands, whether purchased in virtue of pre-emption rights, or in the ordinary manner, shall be made in cash.

Pre-emption Rights.

Any person being the head of a family, or a single man above the age of twenty-one years, being a subject of Her Majesty, by birth or naturalization, who has made, or shall hereafter make, a settlement, in person, on the public lands, and who has inhabited and improved the same, and who has erected or shall erect a dwelling thereon, may have himself entered with the *land officer* of the division in which such land is, for any number of acres not exceeding 160, or a quarter section of land, to include the residence of the claimant, and obtain a patent therefor, upon paying to the Crown the price of such lands.

When two or more persons have settled on the same quarter section of land, the right of pre-emption shall be in him who made the first settlement.

Questions as to the right of pre-emption, arising between different settlers, shall be settled by the land officer of the division in which the land is situated.

Before the right of pre-emption may be exercised, proof of settlement and improvement shall be made to the land officer by the affidavit of the claimant, and the testimony of two creditable witnesses.

All assignments and transfers of pre-emption rights, prior to the issuing of the patent, are null and void.

Before any person shall be allowed to be entered for

lands, and obtain the right of pre-emption in respect thereof, he shall make oath before the land officer of the division in which the land lies, that he has never had the benefit of any right of pre-emption under these regulations—that he has not settled on and improved the lands with a view to selling them on speculation, but in good faith for his own use and benefit.

Any person swearing falsely in the premises shall be guilty of perjury, and shall forfeit any money he has paid for the land, and any conveyance he may have made of the same, except to *bona fide* purchasers, for a valuable consideration, shall be null and void.

The person who receives the oath shall file a certificate thereof in the land office for the division, which shall be evidence that such oath was duly administered. In case a person entitled to claim pre-emption rights dies before giving effect to his claim, the representatives of the deceased person may complete the same. But the entry in such case shall be made in favour of "the heirs" of the deceased person, and the patent shall issue, and the title shall enure to the heirs, as if their names had been specially mentioned.

Homestead Rights.

Any person who is the head of a family, or has attained the age of twenty-one years, who is a subject of Her Majesty, by birth or naturalization, shall, after the first day of May, 1871, be entitled to be entered for one quarter section, or a less quantity of unappropriated

public lands, for the purpose of securing a homestead right in respect thereof.

Those officers and men of the first or Ontario, and of the second or Quebec Battalion of rifles, now serving therein, (whether in the service or depot companies) who may become settlers in Manitoba, shall be entitled to an additional free grant, without actual residence thereon, of one quarter section.

No other person shall be entitled to more than one homestead right.

Persons owning and occupying lands may be entered for other land lying contiguous to their lands, but the whole extent of land, including that previously owned and occupied, must not exceed 160 acres.

A person applying for leave to be entered for lands, with a view of securing a homestead right therein, shall make affidavit that he is over 21 years of age, that he is a British subject by birth or naturalization, and that the application is made for his exclusive use and benefit, and that the entry is made for the purpose of actual settlement.

Upon making this affidavit, and filing it with the land officer, and on payment to him of $10 (for which he shall receive a receipt from the officer), he shall be permitted to enter the land specified in the application.

In entries of contiguous lands, the settler must describe in his affidavit the tract he owns, and is settled upon as his original farm. Actual residence on the contiguous land entered is not required, but *bona fide* im-

provement and cultivation of it must be shown for the period required by these regulations.

No patent shall be granted for the land until the expiration of five years from the time of entering into possession of it.

At the expiration of five years, or within two years thereafter, the settler, or his widow, her heir or devisees, upon proof, to the satisfaction of the land officer, that he or they have resided upon or cultivated the land for five years next after the filing of the affidavit for entry, and upon his or their affidavit, that no part of the land has been alienated, the settler, or his representatives, shall be entitled to a patent for the land.

When both parents die, leaving a child or children under age, the executors or guardians may sell the lands for the benefit of the infant child or children, but for no other purpose.

The purchaser, in such case, shall acquire the absolute title by purchase, and be entitled to obtain a patent for the land from the Crown upon payment of the office fees, &c.

The title to lands to be acquired under the above provisions, remains in the Crown until the issue of the patent therefor, and such lands are not therefore liable to be taken in execution before the issue of the patent.

In case it is proved, to the satisfaction of the land officer, that the settler has abandoned the land entered by him, for more than six months at any time, then the land shall revert to the Crown.

Any person, who has availed himself of the foregoing

provisions, may at any time, before the expiration of the five years, obtain a patent for the land entered upon by him, on paying the pre-emption price thereof, and making proof of settlement and cultivation from the date of entry to the time of payment.

Proof of actual settlement and cultivation is made by the affidavit of the claimant, made before the proper land officer, corroberated by testimony of two credible witnesses.

All assignments and transfers of homestead rights, prior to the issuing of the patent, are null and void, but will be deemed *prima facie* evidence of the abandonment, and give cause for the cancellation of the claim.

A settler relinquishing or abandoning his claim cannot thereafter make a second entry.

A person who has settled on a tract, and filed his application for pre-emption right, may, at any time, substitute therefor an application for homestead right.

Exemption of Certain Lands.

The following lands shall not be the subjects of pre-emption or homestead rights :—

Lands allotted to the Hudson's Bay Company under the terms of the transfer of the North-West Territory to Canada.

Lands reserved for schools.

Wood lands, set apart as such, for supplying settlers with fuel and fencing.

Portions of the public lands selected as the sites of towns or villages.

Lands actually settled and occupied for the purposes of trade.

Mineral lands.

Reservation for Inter-Oceanic Railway.

At any time after the first day of May, A.D. 1874, the Governor in Council may, subject to then existing rights, withdraw, from the operation of the above system, land to the width of three full townships on each side of the line finally sanctioned for the Inter-Oceanic Railway, and may also terminate after the same day, the free homestead system above provided for.

To check the falling of the land into speculation, lands, not exceeding a section, will be sold, at the ordinary sale, to any person for the cash price of one dollar per acre. Volunteers belonging to the expedition are entitled to one free lot of 160 acres, and to another lot by settling on it. Road allowances are established at the width of one chain and a half. Wood and timber lands and mill sites are not allowed to be the subject of pre-emption or homestead rights, or of ordinary sale, but will be the subject of special conditions of sale.

Private Lands.

Farms of various degrees of improvement are frequently offered for sale at from $3 to $12 per acre, such price being often less than the cost of the buildings and fences. These cases occur, not from the undesirable character of the property so much as from restlessness and love of change.

When to Commence.

To the man of means, any portion of the year is a favourable time for coming to Manitoba; but to the poor man, who expects his support from the soil, the value of time is an important consideration. As a rule, the fall is the worst time he could come, while early spring is the best. If the immigrant reaches his land by the middle of June, he is too late to produce most crops the same season; but he is yet in time for barley, potatoes and turnips. Potatoes may be dropped into the furrow and covered by the plough with the tough sod, and will grow through it; while turnip seed may be sown on the freshly turned sod, and very slightly covered. June is the best month for breaking wild land, especially prairie, while the breaking season should not begin earlier than the middle of May, nor lie prolonged beyond the first of August. A particular stage of vegetation of the overturned sod is necessary for its rapid decay, and frequently more harm than good is done to land, which is first unseasonably ploughed.

The present state of the country imperatively demands that the immigrant should bring with him a good supply of provisions, and the cattle he may require, according to his means. Provisions of all kinds are enormously high, and difficult to be had. Flour $3 75c. to $4 25c. per 100 lbs. Pork, 30cts. per lb. Fresh Beef, 18cts. to. 20cts. per lb. Butter, 37½cts. per lb. Eggs, 30cts. per doz. These prices will afford sufficient evidence of the scarcity.

How to get to Manitoba.

At present for the immigrant bringing with him waggons, cattle, &c., the United States route is, no doubt, the easiest and most convenient. After the 1st of October next, he may take the cars, from any point in Canada, through to a point on the Red River, about 200 miles south of Fort Garry, from thence he will have a good prairie road; or may go down the Red River by Steamboat connection. Foreign immigrants landing in Portland or Quebec, may come westward by way of the Grand Trunk, Great Western, and Michigan Central railroads to Chicago; thence to St. Paul and Red River. Those preferring the Lake route, may ship from Collingwood to Duluth, on Lake Superior; thence by rail to terminus at Red River, and from thence by prairie road or Steamboat "International," or "Selkirk." The latter route, is probably the most direct and convenient. On arriving at the terminus, immigrants wishing to take the prairie road with their own conveyances, will be able to obtain all necessary information as to good camping and watering places, which might here be enumerated; but a personal description will be of more practical use. Also in connection with the railway, arrangements have been completed for a line of stages to run, during the present summer, direct to Fort Garry in Manitoba.